

What is claimed is:

1. A snap hook having a generally C-shaped back;

5 a gate pivotally mounted on a first end of said back, said gate selectively in contact with a second end of said back, defining an open and a closed position; and

a grip disposed on said back having suitable dimensions for grasping by at least one entire human hand;

10 wherein said snap hook is configured to admit one or more articles in the open position and to allow carrying thereof by said grip in the closed position.

2. The snap hook of Claim 1 wherein said grip is formed as a tubular sleeve of flexible material.

15 3. The snap hook of Claim 1 wherein said grip has guide protrusions disposed thereon to aid in the positioning of said hand on said grip.

4. The snap hook of Claim 1 wherein said grip is formed of resilient foam.

20 5. The snap hook of Claim 4 wherein said resilient foam is applied in liquid form and cured prior to use.

25 6. The snap hook of Claim 1 wherein said grip is positioned between said first or second ends of said back and the ends of said grip do not extend to said ends of said back.

30 7. The snap hook of Claim 6 wherein at least one of said ends of said grip is formed so that an annular ridge between said back and said grip is formed, said annular ridge resisting movement of said articles past said annular ridge onto said grip.

8. The snap hook of Claim 1 wherein said gate is biased in the closed position.

9. A snap hook having a generally C-shaped back;

a grip formed between a first and second end of said back and integral therewith, said grip adapted to receive an entire human hand; and

5 a gate pivotally mounted on said first end of said back, said gate selectively in contact with said second end of said back, said gate defining an open and a closed position;

wherein said snap hook is configured to admit one or more articles in the open position and to allow carrying thereof by said grip in the closed position.

10. The snap hook of Claim 10 wherein said C-shaped back is formed of plastic.

11. The snap hook of Claim 10 wherein said gate is biased in the closed position.

12. The snap hook of Claim 10 wherein said grip has a first end and a second end, at least one of said first and second ends forming an annular ridge, said annular ridge resisting movement of said articles past said annular ridge and onto said grip.

13. The snap hook of Claim 13 wherein said grip has a coating of resilient foam disposed thereon between said first and second ends thereof, said foam terminating at said at least one annular ridge, to further resist movement of said articles onto said grip.

14. The snap hook of Claim 10 wherein said grip is formed of a leather-like material.

15. A snap hook having a generally C-shaped back;

a grip formed between a first and second end of said back and integral therewith, said grip adapted to receive an entire human hand; and

a gate having a telescoping plunger slidably journaled within one of said first and second ends of said back, said plunger having a head for selectively engaging the other of said first and second ends of said back, defining an open and a closed position; and

5 means for biasing said plunger in said closed position;

wherein said snap hook is configured to admit one or more articles in the open position and to allow carrying thereof by said grip in the closed position.

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